

# BÖLARYD WITH MILL AND SAWMILL

**N**issan is one of the most significant rivers in Jönköping County. It starts as a rivulet south-east of the Taberg plateau, but soon develops into a river with a powerful flow and signs of activity and life along its course. These include eel fishing, log and timber rafting, mills, sawmills, industries and power stations.

Bölaryd is located in the south-western part of the county, before the river Nissan continues into Halland. There has been a mill there since the 17th century and a sawmill since the late 18th century. The first mill was built in the 1690s.

At the turn of the 20th century, a scythe factory was set up, and many types of scythes were forged here. Then a wiredrawing mill was established, and the mill and sawmill became part of the newly formed Skeppshult works. The 1920s saw the start of nail manufacturing. Nails soon became the main product together with iron wire, barbed wire and clamps. A hydropower station was constructed in 1919 by the waterfall. The brick power station, below the mill, is still in use. The nail factory from 1942 is located on the other side of the river, opposite the mill. The works was in operation until 2000, and the building is now used for other purposes. Just south of the mill storehouse is the old works manager's residence, now a private dwelling.

The mill took on its present appearance in 1928, when a second storey was added. The mill was operating commercially until around 1960, and was restored as a museum mill in the early 21st century by the Bölaryd Mill Association. They also hold demonstrations, mill flour and arrange open days.

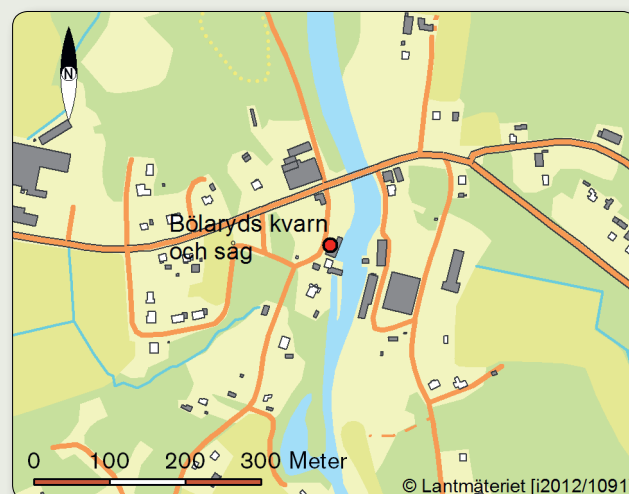
Today, it is the only mill which can operate along the river Nissan in Jönköping County. When the sawmill was running, timber was rafted on the river to the sawmill.

Sometimes the river bursts its banks. Devastating flooding took place in spring 1951, when the spring flood and heavy rain meant that the water level was more than three metres higher than normal. A mark on the southern wall of the mill shows how high the water reached.

Eel was fished here, and Bölaryd was mentioned as a good place for eel fishing already in the 17th century.



*The sawmill is located north of the intake by the mill. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.*



## HIDDEN GEM 78



### HOW TO GET HERE

Bölaryd is located along Nissastigen (Road 26) south of Smålandsstenar. In Skeppshult, turn at Skeppshults Gjuveri, but continue eastwards along the road Bruksgatan for a few hundred metres, towards the river Nissan.

Coordinates:

N 6332405 / E 402341  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N57°  
07' 28,27 E 13° 23 13,23"  
(WGS84)



*The power station and mill. The tower of the works manager's residence is seen in the background. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.*

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## HIDDEN GEMS

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

### FACTS

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

